

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

DANIEL ZACHARIAH NELSON

**CR. NO. 1:06-CR-0109-MEF
[18 USC 922(j)]**

PLEA AGREEMENT

DEFENSE COUNSEL: JOSEPH E. SAWYER, JR.

ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY: TODD A. BROWN

SPECIAL ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY: SEAN P. TARANTINO

COUNT AND STATUTES CHARGED:

Count 1 18 U.S.C. § 922(j)
Possession of Stolen Firearm

COUNT(S) PLEADING PURSUANT TO PLEA AGREEMENT:

Count 1 18 U.S.C. § 922(j)
Possession of Stolen Firearm

PENALTIES BY COUNT - MAXIMUM PENALTY:

Count 1 18 U.S.C. § 922(j)
Possession of Stolen Firearm

A term of imprisonment which may not be more than 10 years, a fine not to exceed \$250,000, or both fine and imprisonment; a term of supervised release of no more than 3 years; an assessment fee of \$100.00; and, restitution.

ELEMENTS OF THE OFFENSE(S):

1. The defendant knowingly possessed a stolen firearm;
2. The stolen firearm had at some time moved in interstate commerce; and,

3. The defendant knew or had reasonable cause to believe that the firearm was stolen.

Todd A. Brown, Assistant United States Attorney, Sean P. Tarantino, Special Assistant United States Attorney, and Joseph E. Sawyer, Jr., attorney for the defendant, pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(A) and 11(c)(1)(C), as Amended, have, with the authorization of the undersigned defendant, heretofore entered into discussions with a view towards reaching a pretrial conclusion of the charges pending in the Information herein and a Plea Agreement has been reached by said parties.

GOVERNMENT'S PROVISIONS

1. Upon entering a plea of guilty by the defendant to the offense charged in Count 1 of the Information, the attorney for the Government will do the following:
 - a. The Government will agree that a 2-level reduction in the applicable offense level pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a) for the defendant's acceptance of responsibility is appropriate, so long as the defendant does not obstruct justice or otherwise fail to accept responsibility for the offense conduct. Should the Government find the defendant assisted authorities in the investigation or prosecution of the defendant's own misconduct by timely notifying authorities of the defendant's intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting the Government to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the Government and this Court to allocate their resources efficiently, and if Defendant otherwise qualifies, the Government will move at sentencing for a further reduction of one level, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b). Determination of whether the defendant met the defendant's obligations to qualify for the reduction pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1 is at the sole discretion of the United States.

b. The Government agrees:

(1) to a sentence at the low end of the applicable guideline range;

(2) not to pursue, federally, further charges stemming from the unlawful entry of a dwelling located at 19 Seventh Avenue, Fort Rucker, Alabama, with intent to commit a crime therein, and the larceny of personal property from the occupants of said dwelling, in August of 2005; the knowing possession of the other firearm which was stolen from 19 Seventh Avenue, specifically the M1911 Colt, Model MK-IV, series 80, semi-automatic .45 caliber pistol, SN USC9-145, between August and January 2006; the unlawful entry of a dwelling located at 11 Division Place, Fort Rucker, Alabama, with intent to commit a crime therein, and the larceny of personal property from the occupants of said dwelling, in September of 2005; the unlawful entry of a dwelling located at 21 Seventh Avenue, Fort Rucker, Alabama, with intent to commit a crime therein, and the larceny of personal property from the occupants of said dwelling, in October of 2005; the unlawful entry of a dwelling located at 12 Donovan Lane, Fort Rucker, Alabama, with intent to commit a crime therein, and the larceny of personal property from the occupants of said dwelling, in December of 2005; and the materially false statement made to investigators on January 27, 2006.

2. The United States reserves the right to inform the Court and the Probation Office of all facts pertinent to the sentencing process, including all relevant information concerning the offenses and the defendant's background.

DEFENDANT'S PROVISIONS

3. The defendant agrees to the following:

a. To plead guilty to Count 1 of the Information.

b. Not to commit any other federal, state, or local offense while awaiting sentencing,

whether that offense is charged or chargeable or not. Such criminal activity would include, but is not limited to, witness tampering, or facilitation of any other criminal activity. Determination of whether Defendant's conduct is a violation of this provision is at the complete discretion of the Government.

c. The defendant understands that while the United States Sentencing Guidelines are advisory, the defendant agrees to be sentenced in accordance with the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

d. The facts used to determine the defendant's Guidelines offense level and sentence will be found by the Court at sentencing by a preponderance of the evidence and that the Court may consider any reliable evidence, including hearsay.

FACTUAL BASIS

4. The defendant admits the allegations charged in Count 1, and understands that the nature of the charge to which the plea is offered involves proof as to Count 1, that on or about the 27th day of January, 2006, at Fort Rucker, Alabama, within the Middle District of Alabama, the defendant, did knowingly possess a stolen firearm, namely, a Jennings, Model J22 .22 caliber pistol, Serial Number 177494, which had been shipped and transported in interstate commerce, before it was stolen, knowing and having reasonable cause to believe the firearm was stolen, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(j).

DEFENDANT WAIVES APPEAL AND COLLATERAL ATTACK

5. Understanding that 18 U.S.C. § 3742 provides for appeal by a defendant of the sentence under certain circumstances, the defendant expressly waives any and all rights conferred by 18 U.S.C. § 3742 to appeal the sentence. Defendant specifically waives the right to appeal the sentence on the

grounds that the sentencing guidelines are in any respect unconstitutional, or that any fact found by the Court for sentencing was not alleged in the Information, admitted by the Defendant, found by a jury, or found beyond a reasonable doubt. Defendant further expressly waives the right to appeal the conviction and sentence on any other ground and waives the right to attack the sentence in any post-conviction proceeding. This waiver does not include the right to appeal on the grounds of ineffective assistance of counsel and prosecutorial misconduct.

Notwithstanding the above, the defendant reserves the right to file a direct appeal of an upward departure from the applicable Guidelines range which the sentencing court specifies at the time of sentencing as having been imposed pursuant to either U.S.S.G. § 4A1.3 (from criminal history category) or § 5K2.O (from offense level). The defendant understands and agrees that this waiver as to all other Guidelines findings would still be in force and effect notwithstanding the appealability of an upward departure. Defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives any rights defendant has under federal law to a jury determination of any fact affecting Defendant's sentence.

In return for the above waiver by the defendant, the Government does not waive its right to appeal the sentence imposed in the instant case. The Government does not waive its right to appeal any order dismissing the Information, vacating a sentence, or otherwise terminating the prosecution at any stage of the proceedings. Further, the parties agree that nothing in this agreement shall affect the Government's right and/or duty to appeal as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b). However, if the United States appeals the defendant's sentence pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b), the defendant is released from this waiver as to any issue the defendant may raise pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3742(a).

DEFENDANT'S UNDERSTANDING AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

6. The defendant, before entering a plea of guilty to Count 1, as provided for herein by said

Plea Agreement, advises the Court that:

a. The discussions between the attorney for the Government and the attorney for the defendant towards reaching an agreed plea in this case have taken place with the defendant's authorization and consent.

b. The defendant further understands that, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013, said \$100.00 assessment fee is to be paid by the defendant on the date of sentencing and that, if a fine is imposed by the Court at sentencing, the defendant shall meet with a member of the Financial Litigation Section of the United States Attorney's Office on the day of sentencing and complete a written personal financial statement setting forth the defendant's assets and liabilities as of the date of the offense. The defendant will make an honest, good faith effort to pay said fine as directed by the Financial Litigation Section of the United States Attorney's Office. The defendant further understands that by completing the financial statement, the defendant is representing that it is true and accurate to the best of the defendant's information, knowledge, and belief.

c. The defendant understands that the defendant has a right to be represented by an attorney at every stage of the proceedings against the defendant herein and is represented by the defendant's undersigned attorney.

d. The defendant understands that the defendant has the right to plead not guilty and has the right to be tried by a jury and, at a trial thereof, has the right to the assistance of counsel, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against the defendant, the right to call witnesses in the defendant's own behalf, and the right not to be compelled to incriminate the defendant, and that if the defendant enters a plea of guilty herein, there will not be a further trial of any kind and that by the entry of such a plea, the defendant waives the right to a trial by jury or to a trial before the Court.

e. The defendant further understands that in entering a plea of guilty herein, the Court

may ask questions about the offense to which the plea is entered and further understands that if the defendant answers these questions under oath, on the record, and in the presence of counsel, which questions and answers would be recorded, that the answers may later be used against the defendant in a prosecution for perjury or false statement if the answers are not truthful.

f. The Defendant further understands and advises the Court that the Plea Agreement as set forth herein and the plea to be entered by the defendant as a result thereof is voluntary on the defendant's part and is not the result of any force or threats or of any promises apart from the aforesaid Plea Agreement. The defendant further advises the Court that the Plea Agreement set forth herein is the result of prior discussions between the attorney for the Government and the attorney for the defendant, all conducted with the defendant's authorization, knowledge, and consent.

g. The defendant further advises the Court that the defendant's understanding of this Plea Agreement is as set forth in this document.

h. The defendant further understands that the Government can only make a recommendation, which is not binding upon the Court. However, if the Court does not accept the plea agreement, the Defendant would be permitted to withdraw the defendant's plea, if the defendant so chooses.

i. The defendant further advises the Court that the defendant understands and has been advised that evidence of a plea of guilty, later withdrawn or an offer to plead guilty to the crime charged in the Information herein, or of statements made in connection with and relevant to said plea or offer to plead, shall not be admissible in any civil or criminal proceedings against the defendant. However, the defendant does understand that evidence of a statement made in connection with and relevant to a plea of guilty, later withdrawn, or an offer to plead guilty to the crimes charged in the Information herein, is admissible in a criminal proceeding for perjury or false statement when the

statement was made by the defendant under oath, on the court record, and in the presence of counsel.

j. The defendant understands that there is no possibility of a sentence of probation.

k. The defendant is satisfied that defense counsel has been competent and effective in representing defendant.

7. The undersigned attorneys for the Government and for the defendant represent to the court that the foregoing Plea Agreement is the agreement of the parties that has been reached pursuant to the Plea Agreement procedure provided for in Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(A) and 11(c)(1)(C). The attorney for the defendant further advises the Court that the defendant has been advised of the nature of the charge to which the foregoing described plea is to be offered, and that the defendant has been advised of the defendant's right to plead not guilty and to be tried by a jury on all issues herein; of the maximum possible penalty provided by law; that by the entering of a plea of guilty as aforesaid, the defendant waives the right to be tried by a jury or by the Court, waives the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against the defendant and the right not to be compelled to incriminate the defendant; and that if the defendant pleads guilty, there will not be a further trial of any kind. Further, the defendant has been advised that if the defendant pleads guilty, the Court may ask questions about the offense to which the defendant has pleaded and that if the plea is rejected or later withdrawn, that the answers to such questions may not be used against the defendant in a civil or criminal proceeding, but that the defendant's answers may later be used against the defendant in a prosecution for perjury or false statement if the answers are not truthful.

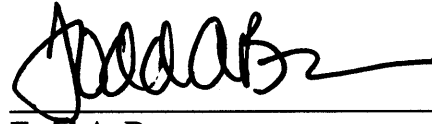
8. The defendant understands that the U.S. Probation Office will prepare a presentence investigation report for the Court. The Probation Officer will consider the defendant's conduct related to the offense to which the plea is offered, as well as the defendant's criminal history. The offense level or criminal history category, as calculated by the Probation Officer and determined by

the court, may differ from that projected by defendant's counsel or the U.S. Attorney.

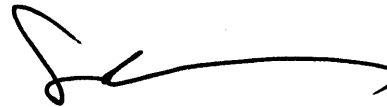
This 4th day of May, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

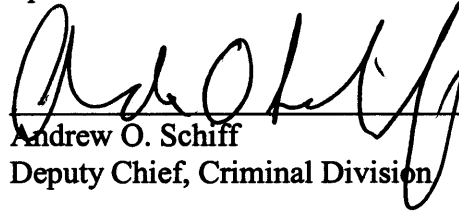
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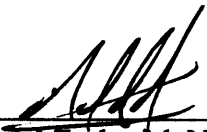
Sean P. Tarantino
Special Assistant United States Attorney



Andrew O. Schiff
Deputy Chief, Criminal Division

I have read the foregoing Plea Agreement, understand the same, and the matters and facts set forth therein accurately and correctly state the representations that have been made to me and accurately set forth the conditions of the Plea Agreement that has been reached.


IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING PROVISIONS TO WHICH I AGREE, I SWEAR UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FACTS IN THE "FACTUAL BASIS" PARAGRAPH ABOVE ARE TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT I AM SATISFIED THAT I HAVE RECEIVED COMPETENT ADVICE AND REPRESENTATION FROM MY DEFENSE COUNSEL.



Daniel Zachariah Nelson
Defendant

5-4-06

Date



Joseph E. Sawyer, Jr.
Attorney for the Defendant

4 May 2006

Date